

I claim:

1. A lift table comprising:

a base, a load platform, and a vertically extendible means for raising and lowering the platform relative to the base;

5 a sensor mechanism including a plurality of sensors mounted on said base of the table and affecting a perimeter of the base;

a guard operably connected to the base and mounted over said sensor mechanism and adapted to activate the sensor mechanism when pressure is exerted upon the guard; and

10 a plurality of springs between the base and the guard, such that the guard is suspended over the base;

thereby providing a means for interrupting a descent of the platform in response to an object encroaching said perimeter of the base and exerting pressure on the guard.

15

2. The lift table of Claim 1, wherein said sensors comprise a pressure switch.

3. The lift table of Claim 1, wherein said sensors comprise a Hall-effect switch.

20 4. The lift table of Claim 1, wherein said sensors comprise an optic-electronic fiber switch.

5. The lift table of Claim 1, further comprising a valve actuated by any one of said sensors to close and hydraulically interrupt the descent of the platform when pressure is exerted on the guard.